

Please amend Claims 1, 2, 6 and 9 as follows. A marked-up copy of the amended claims, showing the changes thereto, is attached. Note that all the claims currently pending in the application, including those presently amended, have been reproduced below for the Examiner's convenience.

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1. (Amended) A vibration wave driving apparatus comprising:

a vibration member formed by an elastic member having an electro-mechanical energy conversion element fixed thereto, and having a through-hole extending through a central portion thereof;

a support member fixed to said vibration member;

a rotary member in press contact with said vibration member, and having a through-hole extending through a central portion thereof;

an output shaft extending through the through-hole of said vibration member and the through-hole of said rotary member, and rotatable with said rotary member, said output shaft supporting said vibration member within the through-hole of said vibration member for rotation relative to said output shaft;

a case packaging said vibration member and said rotary member therein, and fixing one end portion of said support member, thereby supporting said vibration member; and

a plurality of bearings provided in said case, said plurality of bearings rotatably supporting said output shaft.

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cont.

2. (Amended) A vibration wave driving apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the through-hole of said vibration member provides a bearing surface.

3. A vibration wave driving apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the through-hole of said vibration member has a bearing supported by said output shaft.

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cont

4. A vibration wave driving apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein the bearing in the through-hole of said vibration member supported by said output shaft is a sliding bearing.

5. A vibration wave driving apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein the surface of said output shaft supporting the sliding bearing or the bearing surface of said sliding bearing is formed of resin.

6. (Amended) A vibration wave driving apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein said bearing supported by said output shaft is disposed substantially at a node position of vibration in said vibration member.

7. A vibration wave driving apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein at least one of the plurality of bearings provided in said case is a sliding bearing.